

BH Children's Committee Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2026

Tori St. Johns, BHC, Luciana Hsu, SSG/APCTC, Nhan Pham, SAPT/FNL, Rachel Douglas, PS&T, Miranda DeShields, BH Central Region, Mike Scebbi, DPSS/CFS, Javier Garcia, Wylie Center, Candice Hildebrand-Shipley, BH Desert Admin, Diana Gutierrez, BHSA Admin, Yajaira Leon, Wylie Center, Javier Garcia, Wylie Center and Jana Trew, VCSS, Lupe Madrigal, SAPT/FNL, Flor Ramos-Montelongo, McKinley, Janate Valenzuela, S.P.A.R.K. Program, Robert Bohon-Lara Desert TAY & Harmony Haven, Diana Gutierrez, BHSA/PEI, April Smith, BHC/FSA, Yazan Khoury, SELPA, April Smith, FSA/BHC, Melinda McFarland, BHSA Admin, Olivia Novoa, PEI Mobile PCIT, Desert.

Recorder: Saida Spencer, Executive Assistant II for the purposes of the meeting minutes.

Just as a Reminder: It is against RUHS-BH Policy to allow any AI note takers during the meeting. The meeting is being recorded by Saida, who is the Executive Assistant for the purpose of the meeting minutes.

Hande-outs: The Behavioral Health Commission Children's Committee: Vision, Mission and Goals.

Meeting Called to Order & Introductions: 12:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies.

PowerPoint Presentation: April Smith, FSA Behavioral Health Director

Comprehensive Mental Health Support and Services for Families and Children; FSA is actively trying to increase the referrals and hoping that this group will be a pathway for that.

The vision is that the Inland Empire communities have strong families without poverty, hunger or health disparities and we do that in a lot of different ways.

- FSA's motto: Family strength is community strength.

FSA Programs are constantly evolving and growing. One of the programs offered is the Child Development Center with 10 centers throughout Riverside County from Cabazon and several in Riverside and Moreno Valley. The Hemet location is an early education mental health consultation program, with multiple clinicians that go directly into the Child Development Centers and offer coaching and support to the educators and FSA's staff.

FSA works with children ages 2-5 in this population and services are grant funded and therefore completely free.

- There is no qualifying, just an interested family and the child being identified by school and/or parents as needing additional classroom support. However, they must attend one of the ten Child Development Centers. FSA uses the pyramid model, an early learner's model of PBIS (Positive Behavior, Intervention and Support), this for the littles and the model FSA uses for the consultation program.

The Home Visiting Cal Works Program is a 2-year program funded by First 5, and the Department of Cal Works.

This voluntary program pairs pregnant individuals, or new parents of children 0-5, with trained professionals providing

Meeting the 4th Tuesday of Every Month

guidance, coaching, and access to essential health and social services.

The Case Managers that go into the home work directly with the parents, a pregnant mom or a parent of a child ages 0-2. If they have older children FSA will support them as well, as long as they have one of the previous qualifiers.

Providing social, emotional, and behavioral consultation services to teachers, and parents to support a reduction in disruptive classroom behaviors and ensure continuity of care and practice in both school and home settings.

In-home support services uses the Parents as Teachers Program (a 2-year program), which aims to increase childhood parent knowledge on early childhood development and improve positive parenting practices.

This offers material goods as an incentive for the families;

- Family will receive \$1000 for the course, towards health and safety supplies. FSA's Baby Buck Program also earns incentives. If they attend their sessions consistently, make progress towards their goals, they earn baby bucks and they may use those dollars to buy toys and different items for their children.

- Other than the age and/or pregnancy requirement, as long as they are receiving any form of Cal Works then they are eligible for the program.
- They must be receiving Cal Works at the time of referral, so even if their case closes but FSA received the referral prior to that, FSA will still serve them as long as the case is active at the time of referral.

The Differential Response Program, funded through the DPSS (Department of Public Social Services):

- Provides targeted case management and parenting education to families referred by the social worker.

The Program is for any individual who may have had an investigation for abuse or neglect. However, the investigation did not result in removal and there may be a mild or moderate concern, FSA provides Parenting Support using the Nurturing Parenting and Nurturing Skills curriculum for the families.

- 12-session virtual, in person, or in-home based, it is the client's preference.
- May also be extended past those 12 weeks, depending on the needs of the family.
- Other than requiring a referral through their Social Worker, this is completely free.

The General Therapy Program provides comprehensive mental health services:

- Non-specialty mental health services are free and on a sliding scale.

In the process of credentialing with various insurance panels.

- Working with the managed care companies to finalize.
- Work with children, adults, adolescents, teens, couples, and families through telehealth and/or in one of the clinics.

FSA has expanded with the main clinic in Box Springs in Moreno Valley; however, it also offers services out of the Lakeland Village Center in Lake Elsinore, and the Cabazon location in the desert.

- One Community Health Worker that helps with system navigation.

FSA is able to bill IEHP for services and accept anyone who needs the support. Providing public education, workshops, case management, linkage and access to different referrals and assisting with connecting to insurance.

- DBT groups for teens, adolescents, parents and caregivers.
- Grief and loss groups for adults and children.

And lastly, we have multiple-group therapy services that are offered completely free.

Questions & Answers

Review of Minutes: June 23, 2026, minutes reviewed. Tori St. Johns makes a motion to approve the minutes as written, Rachel Douglas, approves, Miranda DeShields seconded the motion, and all are in favor.

Desert Children's Region: Candice Hildebrand shared the following:

Continuing to work on expanding the new housing development project YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program) so that we may house as many teens as possible. Completed the re-application of the grant to try to expand the project outside of the Desert.

The goal is to have a YHDP staff at all of the TAY Drop-In Centers to assist TAY Youth at risk with housing needs.

The TAY Desert Flow Center - clinics and programs - are focusing on how to better reach the youth and their families and coming up with creative ways to plan.

TAY has a new group out of the Banning clinic that focuses on helping high school youth prepare for college applications - anything in college - or job related.

TAY has cooking classes, and Community Classes starting out of the Indio Clinic and also taking a look at when we offer those services so that we can again better meet the needs of children and families.

Central Children's Region: Miranda DeShields shared the following updates:

The Preschool 0-5 Program is starting a new group for infants 1 years of age and under. The Infant Group is designed to support both parents and caregivers of infants. Strengthening healthy relationships for education, discussion, and hands on activities.

The first Carer Infant Group starts on August 6, 2026, it is a six-week group and covers topics such as:

- Safe tummy time with caregiver participation. The DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment) measures are used to track pre and post data.

Topics that will be covered are;

- Understanding attachment and responsive of caregiving.
- Reading and responding to infant cues and behaviors.
- Attunement and nurturing parent-child interactions.
- Infant developmental milestones, Early brain development, Communicating effectively with your baby, Appropriate sensory stimulation.
- Safe tummy time with caregiver participation.

The DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment) measures are used to track pre and post data.

Anyone interested in referring to the Preschool 0-5 Program, Supervisor Isabel Santilli, 951-358-6895, would be the point of contact. For further information please go to www.growinghealthyminds.org

Mid-County Children's Region: Miranda shared the following on behalf of Beverly McKeddie:

Mid-County has exciting new groups:

The Parent-TAY-hood at the TAY Arena – Connect, Support and Grow Together (flyer).

- The group is designed specifically for TAY parents ages 16-25, moms, dads, and caregivers to help them build confidence and connect with valuable community resources.

Fun, engaging activities that parents can enjoy with the babies and kiddos while creating a supportive community where no one feels alone.

Never Have I Ever: is also another group that asks the question to the consumers/clients to get them out of their comfort zone and try things they - **never have they ever** - done before.

Never have I ever:

- Gotten a library card
- Volunteered
- Used public transportation

The group on volunteering: Ran the cotton candy table at the Whole Collaborative Event in Hemet.

The TOPSS Program started serving San Jacinto Unified School District and the official start date is August 5, 2026. Seeing families at their homes and in their communities.

All Mid-County Programs have been participating summer activities.

- Summer camps, hikes, self-care workshops and family events.

Behavioral Health Commission/Regional Board Updates: Tori St. Johns shared the following information

The BHC (Behavioral Health Commission) meeting is dark for the month of August and will resume as scheduled on Wednesday Sept. 2, 2026. It will be held at the Rustin Conference Center.

Dr. Quinn will be writing a report for the Desert Regional Board.

Parent Support & Training: Rachel Douglas shared the following information

Completed “The Nurturing Fathers Facilitator Training” and PS&T had 10 Parent Partners that finished the training. One of the current Parent Partner is from The Carolyn Wylie Center.

PS&T is still in the midst of the “Fill a Backpack Drive” season at the Myers Campus 3075 Myers St., Building #1. Collection ends on August 7, 2026; however, PS&T will accept the backpacks at any time.

- For the Desert donations please communicate with Shawn Harris – Sr. Certified Peer Support Specialist – 951-358-5862 – sharris@ruhealth.org
- For all other regions please communicate with Rachel Douglas - Sr. Certified Peer Support Specialist - rdouglas@ruhealth.org Elisabeth Rios – Volunteer Services Coordinator – e.rios@ruhealth.org Cindy Chavez – Sr. Certified Peer Support Specialist - CiChavez@ruhealth.org 951-358-5862

BHSA Update: Diana Gutierrez shared the following:

The BHSA Integrated Plan was submitted 2 weeks early.

- Now we begin full implementation on July 1, 2026, and with that comes a lot of changes.
- We will now implement all the new required BHSA Programs.
- Sunsetting many contracts and programs.
- Updating the program’s website.
- Information will be updated for the community as needed.

Several department programs in the outpatient sector is the startup of all of the required Evidence-Based Practices, and that includes the Full-Service Partnership Programs for the adults and older adults’ consumers and for TAY, where it is clinically appropriate to do both Act/FACT or the Intensive Case Management.

- Intensive Case Management at Level 1.
- ACT/FACT is at Level 2 and
- For Children and Youth, it is the HFW (High Fidelity Wraparound) Program.

Those programs are up and running and we are waiting on final guidance from the State. So, although we are implementing, we are still adjusting as we get additional guidance and structure from the State.

BHSA Admin team has transitioned and so Melinda (Mindy) McFarland, Supervisor with the team is overseeing a group that supports the Integrated Plan throughout the service system to make sure we are going through each year and the annual updates to meet all the requirements and that the department meets all of the BHSA objectives.

The Cultural Competency Team is now called The Cultural Community Engagement Team, or CCET, and they will continue to do Cultural Competency work and oversee the Cultural Competency in reducing disparities Task Force, with its 10 subcommittees and their focus will include:

- Access and linkage for the underserved communities into the Behavioral Health System, as well as planning for the BHSA Community Stakeholder process.
- Participating in many different engagements in the community.
- There are opportunities for different communities to give feedback around the service system and to participate in working together. More to come on that.

In addition, we want to share that the Suicide Prevention Coalition will not be funded under the BHSA. The main oversight of that work has shifted to the Public Health Department. They are going to take the lead, and we will continue to support and assist.

- The team is still engaged and involved in where we can fund things that are focused on more of the Early Intervention and Treatment level. However, Public Health is going to continue to operate the website which is still available.
- Public Health will still offer Community-Based Trainings for ASIST, Safe-Talk, QPR, and all of the virtual series that the department created during COVID – which is – Mental Health 101, Self Care and Wellness, Building Resiliency, Understanding Trauma and No Signs – another suicide prevention training available soon – if they are not available already - via the www.rivcospc.org website where anyone can go and sign up.

We will continue to have the quarterly Suicide Prevention meetings where we bring in subject matter experts, so be on the lookout for that.

- Public Health will have a version of the conference.
- Public Health is anticipating a 1/2-day Suicide Prevention Conference on November 4, 2026. Save the Date. More to come.

Friday Night Live: Nhan Pham, FNL, shared some updates:

Although school is out for the summer, FNL is still very busy. We have been to back to school events in various communities in the Desert and in the Western Regions.

The Youth Council: Some of the Youth Ambassadors graduated out of the program, leaving a few seats available, and FNL just completed the interviews. The first Youth Council meeting started yesterday - July 29, 2026,- and we acquired 6 more Youth Council Members from various districts – Beaumont, Banning, Vista, Corona and one from Moreno Valley.

- A lot of Western representations and we think that is great, so that makes us about even with the representation we have in the Desert Region.
- The final number of 12 Youth Council Members: Students from Riverside County and represent all areas of the county.

FNL Days is an in-house staff training we host for Mid-County, Western and Eastern Regions.

- Providing in-house training, updating, and educating new staff.
- Providing training and re-enforcement to the existing staff on normal operations within the schools.

SAPT: Lupe Madrigal shared the following updates:

School-Base Services are slowing down during the summer months. Contract processing is on-going. The clinics are up and running, providing services for all the outpatient levels of care - 11 clinics countywide. The Integrated Clinics provide youth services that we support with trainings.

- SAPT is opened and does not have a wait list, so if the programs/agencies have any youths that need Substance Use Treatment or Prevention we will provide treatment in the schools or any place close to where the youth resides.

The Recovery Happens Event is scheduled for September 24, 2026, 11:30-4:30 pm Fairmount Park, Riverside, CA.

- A day of celebration, resources, and support focused on effective treatments for individuals with behavioral health and substance use disorders, emphasizing integrated care and community support. For information call 951-782-2400 or visit bit.ly/RecoveryHappens26.
- Volunteers who are always needed, please register at bit.ly/RecoveryHappens26-Volunteer
- Look forward to the Providers attending and having a table with information and resources of the services offered.

TAY Desert Region: Robert Bohon-Lara`` shared the following updates in the Desert:

Jay Rembold and Robert have been asked by the Project Managers to do the TIS presentations for the staff meetings, the clinics and the programs. This is going very well.

The goal is to have Peers from each program, and clinic, present to their own staff meetings.

Last Tuesday's Desert training and support meeting which is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30, had a 30-minute presentation from Workforce, Probation and the COE (Center of Excellence) presented as well.

- One of the Senior Peer's shared their story of recovery, which was a beautiful.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2026.

Continuing to have the Wraparound Peer Training and Support meetings monthly. To support and brainstorm solutions of barriers that they are experiencing themselves or with other members. Members are able to do an account consult note which helps with their productivity.

- Friday July 31, 2026, 12:30-2:30 pm Building Peer Leaders Graduation 47825 Oasis St., Indio.

It's so cool to be there for the graduations and to see their shining faces, of how proud they are that they passed.

Agency Reports:

SSG Riverside Counseling Center: Tori St. Johns on behalf of Jana Garrett shares the following:

Jana and the SSG RC Center received an e-mail recognition from Andrea Deaton for their work that reads:

Just wanted to let you know that you were my overachievers - SSG/RCC completed 58 clients - in FY 25-26, the program had the most completions of all the CBITS providers. Great job.

Diana Gutierrez shared:

This PEI Provider is now going to move into an Early Intervention Contractor. CBITS was offered at the schools based solely on an eligibility criterion. Now CBITS will be available to Medi-Cal youth who meet eligibility criteria.

Jana sent an email update for the program: RCC Therapists are open for referrals. If there are any Medi-Cal referrals that need support in Moreno Valley, the program will accept them.

SSG/APCTC (Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers): Luciana Hsu shared updates:

On point with PEI transition, and the new MOU with Corona, and Norco Unified School District.

The district continues to want SSG/APCTC on site to do more of the Mental Health Awareness Workshops and Parenting Groups. The therapist(s) currently have more time, more openings and sees the value of doing prevention work.

The program scheduled two different workshops – in August - for Mental Health Awareness and they are both at the Dual Immersion Program site with one at Rosa Parks Elementary in Eastvale and the other at Rondo School of Discovery. With the support of the TSA, (Teacher on Special Assignment) we are able to bring it on site to the MPR (Multipurpose Room) and offer it to just the TK (Transitional Kindergartens).

School officially starts on August 11th, and the goal is to go to different schools to re-share that the MOU is fully executed.

- This may be the first MOU that's ever been done with CNUSD.

DPSS/CFS: Mike Scebbi shares the following update: CFS had an amazing graduation in June, at the March Air-Force Base in Moreno Valley. It is great environment.

- The theme was "Taken Off" as in their future.
- There was some amazing food and sweets.
- We had about 208 people which includes graduates, caretakers/families, and others.

Have held the graduation there twice, and it is a great venue for the kids. So many people throughout the community helped put this together. It was truly a community effort. Thank you to everyone. This has become a labor of love.

- Faith in Motion – used donations to make baskets for every kid.
- The food and the sweets were amazing.
- Different schools and College of the Desert participated with activities for the kids to get involved in.

- The young man providing free haircuts is a former foster youth, who brought his own chair for the youth to sit in while getting their haircuts. They have a full-time job and still wanted to come and contribute.
- Professional Stylists were also participating, and it was amazing.

CFS is always looking to collaborate and build connections because one of the goals is we want the kids to win.

VCSS (Victor Community Support Services): Jana Trew shared the following:

The wraparound program is rounding out the summer program before we shift into full blown fall programming, which includes continuing the strong partnerships with the education partners - including SELFA - to make sure that the children and the families are getting what they need to continue academic success - school settings - which involve a lot of MOUs with the school districts.

- The Summer Family Picnic
- Lake Perris tomorrow with the Wraparound families and their support.
- In Indio on Friday and next Wednesday in Glen Helen

These events are scheduled so that they can have fun with the team members and get linked with other families.

Focused not only on educational support services, but family therapy and making sure families are getting that aspect of services, and any customized services, which include ECM (Enhanced Care Management) System.

Across California, VCSS served about 2000 families who are starting to realize that is something they are entitled to, so that they can focus on their mental health.

- Visit the VCSS website at <https://victor.org> for further information.

RC/SELPA: Yazan Khoury shared the following:

We are slowing down with maybe about two weeks left before most of the schools go back to being very busy. SELPA is gearing up and revamping the trainings.

- For further information visit the website RCSELPA.org click on the calendar tab.

Carolyn E. Wylie Center: Yajaira Leon shared the following:

The program is currently accepting referrals for;

- Eating Disorder Program
- Trauma Treatment
- 0 to 5
- High Acuity and Stabilization
- Affirmation Inclusive Care Program as well as
- We accept full-scope Riverside Medical, unless it is an AB1299 or an SB-785 Capability Project.

The Wylie Center recently created a social committee who are designated to hold our seasonal events. The 3rd annual Summer Bash Event was held on July 16, at the Wylie Riverside location's 2nd fl conference room. Last year's event had about 50 individuals, families, and clients show up. This year we had almost 100 people show up to this event. We were not expecting so many people, there were raffles, games, activities, and plenty of resources.

- The team had little demonstrations to motivate clients and families to be more involved in the groups we offer in the clinic and also the collaboration piece, with the clinicians being able to connect with the community outside of treatment.
- We received donations of pizzas from Marcelo's Papa Joe's, donations from Starbucks, and were able to raffle off \$100.00 gift card from Target.

The Social Committee is doing a really great job, finding the donations, to offer those resources to the community is perfect.

We hold those kinds of events 3 times a year.

- First is the Summer Bash,
- Second is to do something along Halloween
- Third is the Winter Wonderland to end the year.

We hope to continue to provide the community with new resources and backpacks (coming soon). The Wylie Center is interested in putting together a Toy Drive and hoping to find enough donors to participate so that the families get a gift this Christmas.

McKinley Children's Center: Flor Ramos-Montelongo shared the following:

McKinley has a Riverside office and a Hemet office for Riverside County, and provide mental health services to the 0-21 population who have full scope Medi-Cal.

McKinley also has medication support on site as well as adjunct services, and a TBS program. We have a Parent Partner, a TAY Peer Specialist and an MHRS. We are also continuing with the CIFFTA (Culturally Informed Flexible Family Therapy for Adolescents) Program. McKinley will be rolling out this short term free for family therapy program for another year.

- Families do need to consent to the family therapy portion.
- The target audience is ages between 9 to 18, and the focus is on issues around depression, school failure, family conflict, delinquency, substance use, disruption to the family unit and any risky behaviors.
- The program is no cost to the family.

This free program would be good for families who may have high insurance premiums, no insurance, their insurance lapsed and they're no longer able to receive services, or their insurance may not cover family therapy.

A culturally sensitive evidence-based therapy that is meant to tailor the unique needs of diverse adolescents and their families.

- There is flexibility for telehealth, in-person and/or at home as well.
- ECM (Enhanced-Care Management) is also offered.

Three clinicians have become fully licensed for the Riverside team and now have about 7 licensed clinicians. In addition, McKinley has onboarded new team members and are opened to referrals for 0-21 folks or families who need that Intensive Family Therapy.

Next Meeting: September 22, 2026, 12-2 p.m.

Location: Rustin Conference Center – Conf Room 1048, 2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

Pursuant to The Behavioral Health Commissioners: Please note that moving forward the Standing Committee agendas and minutes shall be posted on the website for your reference as well as the public.

<https://www.ruhealth.org/behavioral-health/advisory-committees>